

Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, May 22, 2003

Albert Brooks and Michael Douglas play two prospective fathers-in-law with completely different personalities in 'The In-Laws.' They are thrown together in a wild adventure on the eve of their children's nuptials.

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Tale of two comedies

'Bruce Almighty' and 'The In-Laws' look fun and fanciful z

BY NICOLE STAFFORD

Two whimsical comedies with incredible plot set-ups - one more grounded in reality and the other, pure fantasy - make their way to theaters this

weekend. On the more realistic side is On the more realistic side is The In-Laws, the story of two fathers with dramatically dif-ferent lifestyles and personali-ties who are thrown together in a wild adventure on the eve of their children's nuptials. The In-Laws was inspired by the 1979 hit comedy of the same name.

The prospective father-in-laws are Jerome Peyser, a mild-mannered podiatrist with a well-organized, daily routine played by Albert Brooks, and Steve Tobias, a daredevil CIA operative played by Michael Douglas.

Tubias is trying to wrap up a very important case that could affect the safety of countless lives worldwide – not to men-tion, the wedding plans. Peyser wants to stop the nup-tials. But before the good doc-tor can, he is thrust into Tobias' undercover world, a tup-secret international arms-smuggling deal.

With the summer wedding season upon us, the theatrical release of *The In-Laws* comes at an appropriate time – comic relief for those in the throes of planning a wedding. Hey, seat-ing chart revisions pale in comparison to nuclear

comparison te nuclear
weapons.

The In-Laws, a Warner Bros.
release, is rated PG-13.

A fantasy with sure-fire
appeal sets up Bruce Almighty,
starring the larger-than-life
lim Carrey.

Jim Carrey.
Carrey's character, Bruce
Nolan, is a discontented man
who has an especially bad day
and gets mad at God. He

quickly finds himself face-to-face with God, played by Morgan Freeman, who bestows him with all his divine powers, challenging him to do a better

challenging him to do a better job.
One can only imagine where Carrey takes his almighty char-acter. The actor's energy level and wild antics almost always make for great entertainment. His girlfriend Grace is played by Friends television star Jennifer Aniston.

Jennifer Aniston.

Bruce Almighty, a Universal
Pictures release, is rated PG-

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Poison lead singer Bret
Michaels is anything but a onedimensional rock sure.
He breaks any stereotype
one might expect from a glam
rock band that had huge hits in
the late 80s and 90s like
Every Rose Has 1s Thorn,
Talk Diny to Me and 1s Thorn,
Talk Diny to Me and 1s Thorn,
Talk Diny to Me and
the possible between the stereotypes too. The bank
stereotyp Neil.
During a conversation with
Michaels lact week from his
home in Canada, the singer
discussed the hardships and
blessings of his unpredictable
life.

blessings of his unpredictable life.

Michaels just released his fourth solo CD. Sorge of Life. His an energetic blend of straight-up sevy rock n' roli, reflective country Americana, fun pop rock and a few honest ballads that are hearthreaking to hear. His song Raine, written for his daughter Baine, is marked as a hit and rightfully so. The CD also contains a heautifully filmed video of Raine.

Michaels embraces fatherhood.

Michaels embraces fatherhood. As ways heard people use
the term funconditional love."
Michaels said. 'And I didn't
Michaels said.



Bret Michaels has just released his fourth solo CD, and will be at DTE Energy Music Theatre on Friday, May

her through the window with my ex-friend Jack. She broke my heart, sold my guitar and I wrote this erap.

The song Strange Sensation rings of pure Michaels sexappeal: "Why do I lave you in my bed, why do I hate you in my bed, why do I hate you in my head." Others are reflective "love and pain and sacrifice, flesh and blood are the songs of life" in the song Songs of I.Ide. The song One More Day was written in honor of a man killed in the World Trade Center attack: "Sometimes I wonder if I wasted all those years. For all the things I forgot to say, would you give me more day."

"September II was a horrible day for me...just like it was for everyone in America. I was angry, I was sad, I was confused. and the song One More Day came out of me when I heard about one particular man, a father, who died. As a father myself this is what came out of me, he said.

Michaels admits his life is rich. He has a seemingly flaw: less model gitlfriend who is the mother of his daughter Raine, wealth, a band that has survived the sex and drugs of rock or roll and a successful movie career. Even better, Michaels said, he's actually friends with his Poison bandmates. He's also an extreme aports enthusiaests – participating, not just

also an extreme sports enthusiasts - participating, not just

WHERE TO HEAR AND SEE BRET MICHAELS

Bret Michaels, lead singer for Poison, just released his fourth solo CD. Sonos of Life. The CD, available at local record stories, contains an enhanced video for Raine a song written for his daughter

à. Friday, May 30 - Poison with Michaels comes to the DTE Energy Music Theatre. Specials quests are, former Motley Crue frontman Vince Neil and Skid Row. Showtime is 7 p.m. Tickets \$38 pavilion, \$23 lawn. Poison shows are quite consistently known for sell-outs. Purchase tickets in advance at all Ticketmaster outlets or by calling (248) 645-6666.

Rent the videos. Michaels wrote, directed and starred in the movie A Letter From Death Row also featuring Martin Sheen. The second movie No Code of Conduct was co-written by Michaels and Charlie Sheen.

Read more about his unusual career at www.bretmichaels.com

watching. He's made repeated guest appearances on the Chris. Issae Show and will return there again. At 40 years old with the toned, muscular body of someone in his 20s. Michaels seems unstoppable. The hardships of his life, Michaels said, helped form the more serious tones of Songs of Life.

Michaels is an insulindependent diabetic. He's had to give himself more than 50,000 injections and blood checks over his lifetime and must always be aware of his body. Unlike many stereotypical rock musicians, Michaels couldn't indulge without suffering immediate consequences.

The disease has been a blessing and a curse. Michaels said. A blessing because it forces me to stay in shape and watch my health and a curse for the obvious reasons, the major health issues affecting diabetes, the lack of freedom. I can't just pick up and go at the last minute with just the duther on my back, I have to bring the needles, the huston and all the gear with me. There's times when I just say first the control of the contro

else."
His words became a little faster when referencing the Detroit show.
We've been selling out DTE for years, Michaels said.
There's nothing like it."

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